

Nashville Venue Mgr. Requests Clearance Policy

The lack of a clearance policy resulted in back-to-back wrestling matches at the Nashville (Tenn.) Municipal Auditorium, May 6-7.

The World Wrestling Federation (WWF), which brought the sport back to the facility on a big-time basis four years ago, drew 8,100 people and a gross of \$77,009 on Saturday (6). Buddy Lee, owner of Buddy Lee Attractions, Nashville, was the promoter.

The National Wrestling Alliance (NWA), which has booked a couple of matches in the last year, pulled 4,000 fans Sunday (7) and a gross of \$36,000, according to building Manager Bobby Highsmith.

"Actually, the NWA put its date on the books first. When Ed Cohen of the WWF heard about it, he became upset and scheduled matches for the night before," Highsmith said.

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He added, "The WWF does between six, seven or eight programs with us a year and crowds have grown consistently for them during the last four years.

"During that time, until the NWA came in, the only competition they had was during the state fair, when Nick Gulas (a local promoter) would stage matches at our building."

Highsmith noted, "I would like to see some type of clearance policy established, because as it is right now, I'm in the middle."

Highsmith has set that matter for the agenda when the seven-member policy-making board meets May 22. Chairman of that board is Howard Gentry, former athletic director at Tennessee State University.

The next WWF scheduled event at the building, according to Lee, is July 28, when heavyweight champion Hulk Hogan defends his title against challenger Randy (Macho Man) Savage.